

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, October 18. 1711.

I Am persuaded that many of those People, who are so forward to put the *Spanish* Monarchy into the Hands of the Emperor, do it in their honest Zeal, to prevent its falling into the Hands of *France* ; I join with them in their Zeal, but let us see that it be according to Knowledge.

There's no bearing of this, said the Fish, when the Cook put them into the Frying-Pan, and *out they jump'd into the Fire* : I hope and believe, none in the Administration of our Affairs, would be so much their Country's Enemies, as to give the *Spanish* Monarchy up to the King of *France*, so as

that one and the same Person should Command them both ; as to *Lewis XIV.* and *Phillip V.* being in effect but one Person ; I shall not differ with them about it in this Head, of the whole Monarchy. I shall speak to it by itself, when I come to Enquire into the Particulars of a *Partition* ; But I hope and believe, no honest Man, who has the Protestant Interest of *Europe* at his Heart, or the Interest of *Britain* either, would leap out of this Dilemma, into that inevitable Destruction, *viz.* The giving it all to the Emperor ; this would be shunning one Evil to run into a worse, or to return to the Homely Proverb above, would be with a Witness

Witness, *leaping out of the Frying-Pan into the Fire.*

Now to make out what I say, I shall first let you see what kind of a Monster of Power, the Person of him, who should thus be possess'd of the Empire and Spanish Monarchy would be, that you may look before you take this dark Leap; I shall then shew you, what Powers Charles V. had, when such a fatal Union was made—And what the difference between them would be, one Way or other; that is, what Ch. V. had which Charles III. then the Vltb. will not have, and what Charles VI. will have, which Charles V. had not: Then I shall give you a short View, of what was the Mischief, to Europe from the first Union of this Kind, and what may probably be the Mischief of another:

Emperor of Germany.
King of Hungary.
King of Bohemia.
King of Croatia and Slavonia.
King of Dalmatia.
King of Spain.
King of Naples.
King of Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica.
Prince of Suabia. Having large Possessions in that Circle, and many Titles.
Prince of Transylvania.
Arch-Duke of Austria, Upper and Lower.
Duke of the High and Lower Silesia.
Duke of Styria.

Duke of Carinthia.
Duke of Carniola.
Duke of Luxemburgh.
Duke of Brabant.
Duke of Milan.
Duke of Mantua.
Earl of Flanders.
Earl of Arden.
Marquiss of Moravia.
Count of Hainault.
Count of Namur.
Count of Türol.
Count of Hapsburgb.

These are none of them empty Titles, but real large Dominions, all of them now in the actual Possession of the Emperor or the Crown of Spain, part of the *Netherlands* excepted, which is not yet recover'd from France; nor are any of them small Things, but considerable in Strength and Riches, even separately consider'd.

Besides all this, he would then be possess'd of all the Spanish Dominions in America; where he is

Emperor of Mexico.
Emperor of Peru.
King of Chili.

And to Summ it up in a few Words,
Lord of the Richest and Greatest

And if after this, you are for an Austrian Exorbitance any more than a French, especially when you have no need of either, I am mistaken.

I am to suppose Charles III. now King of Spain, to be Elected Emperor, and plac'd in all the Possessions of his Deceas'd Brother, the Emperor Joseph; and that by a Treaty of Peace, the Confederates should put into his Hands, the whole Spanish Monarchy Undivided, leaving to King Philip V. as they say, Prince Eugene's ore by G—d they would not——Not Land enough to bury him in.

This Monarch would then be in Europe possess'd of the Countries with the following Titles; I omit the Titles of Countries not possess'd, as not to our purpose.

Quarter part of the World; for the Possessions of the English, Dutch, French, and Portuguese in America, are Trifles, compar'd to the Spanish Dominions, which are extended from Rio del Norte, in the Latitude of 33 North, to the Latitude of 43 South of the Line. or which is yet more, from the New Mexico to the Streights of Magellan, being in a straight Line 80 Degrees, . 4800 Mile, being above half the Diameter of the World; and at the same Time, taking up the whole Space in breadth, from the North to the South Seas, having infinite Extent of Lands, Rich and Fruitful,

ful, which they leave and refuse, as not worth their Possessing.

If *Charles V.* when Emperor of *Germany* was a Terror to *Europe*, and left such a Power in one House, as was fatal to the Peace of Christendom for near 40 Years — Let us Examine what he had, more than the Powers above, and what less.

1. He had none of the Dominions in *America*, that is to say, he had them not as any Addition to his Strength; for tho' it is true, that the Conquest of *Mexico* by *Ferdinand Cortez*, was in his Reign, yet the Gain of those Dominions was not immediately brought Home, or the Conquest brought to Perfection, till some Years afterwards.
2. He had not the Kingdom of *Hungary*, or the Principality of *Transylvania*, these were in the Possession of his Brother *Ferdinand*, afterwards Emperor.
3. He had not the Kingdom of *Bohemia*, or the Upper and Lower *Silesia*.
4. He had not the Dutchy of *Milan*, which was often in Possession of the *French*, and at other Times, of *Francis Sforzia* Duke of *Milan*.
5. He had not the Dutchy of *Mantua*, which is fallen to the Emperor this last War, the late Duke dying under the Ban of the Empire, and the House of *Gonzaga* being extinct in him.

It is true, he had the following Dominions, which now they have not.

1. The United Provinces, now call'd the States General; but they were far from being that Powerful People they are now.
2. He had the Kingdom of *Tunis* and *Tripoli* in *Africa*, but they rather weakned, than added to his Power.

Thus you have the present Extent of the Dominions an Emperor of *Germany* shall have, if the *Spanish* Monarchy shall be ad-

ded; if this will not bring you over to a Partition, I shall let you see in my next, what you may Rationally expect to *Europe*, and to the Protestant Religion, in the Consequence of such an Exorbitant Greatness, and then will more plainly appear whether I am talking for publick or private Advantage.

I cannot but note here, that I see every Day Papers full of Schemes for the Partition, and full of Projects of Peace; telling you Preliminaries are Sign'd and Agreed, and the like.

It is easie for any one to Form Schemes without Doors, and indeed to make a Peace for us, and the *French* too, according to their own vain Imaginations; for my part, tho' I desire to believe my Share of every Thing, that carries any probability of Truth with it, yet I am far from believing a tenth part of these Things; and a long Argument publish'd for Peace, takes a great deal of Pains to let us know, the Author of it knows nothing of the Matter.

I believe, and it appears indeed, that the *French* have apply'd themselves to the *English* Court, to obtain a Treaty of Peace, as they did formerly to the *Dutch*: It is most natural on such Application, to ask them what their Master will offer, and desire them to set their Hands to it, and tell them, that having receiv'd this, we will Communicate it to our Allies.

I can yet see no more in it, nor do I believe there has been one Word of who shall or shall not have this or that Debated; if there has been no more than this, then those boasting Fellows on one Hand, who have carv'd out this and that part, for this and that State; or these sroward People on the other Hand, who talk of Clandestine Negotiations, are equally mistaken, and ought to deceive no-body but themselves —

When Clandestine Negotiations appear more plainly, more may be said to them; or if Preliminaries are agreed on here, without the *Dutch*, then I'll Complain as loud as my Neighbours; but as to what is done, I see nothing in it, but Heads of Prepossession given in by the *French*, receiv'd by the *Mis-*
nistrs,

nistry, and Communicated here to the Ministers of the Allies — Let any Man tell us what they would have done — I see no Room to Object yet, and God forbid we should object before-hand — It is not a part of the Grand Alliance as I see, that none of the Allies but the *Dutch*, shall receive any Offers of Peace: The *French* are at Liberty to try all the Confederates; if he thinks we will be drawn in, he may, and I hope will be mistaken: If his Attempt is made to this or that Branch, 'tis all alike, if they do but faithfully Communicate the Proposals to the *Dutch*: Those that say the Preliminaries are agreed on, must first say our Ministry have Sign'd them to the *French*; for receiving Proposals can never be call'd settling Preliminaries.

But, say others, we have made private Bargains for our selves, to our own Ad-

vantage, and by which we shall be more Gainers than our Confederates — Well, Gentlemen, if there be any private Bargain, it is well, it is to our Advantage, and we *English-Men* ought not to be the first to complain of that; it is Time enough to hear our Neighbours charge us with that. If we have not made Conditions to our Disadvantage, What need there be any Strife at Home? But all this is alike Chimerical, and I cannot but be sorry, to see that we amuse our selves with Things that have no Evidence or Probability in themselves.

I wish a Peace as much as any Body; I firmly believe, a Partition must be the Ground-Plot of it; but that there is any one Step yet taken, to Treat of the said Partition, I believe not a Word of — A little Time and Patience will enlighten us all.

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